

ALABAMA EDUCATION NEWS

May 2013 · Issue II

Alabama Senior Named First-Ever ACT College And Career Readiness Campaign National Student Award Winner

Sheree Gremillion of Rogers High School in Florence receives prestigious honor

Rogers High School senior **Sheree Michelle Gremillion** constantly works to achieve academic excellence, even in the midst of adverse circumstances.



Gremillion has lived at the North Alabama Christian Children's Home for almost five years, having been placed in foster care at the age of 14 and eventually becoming a ward of the state. But she has channeled her energy into rising above her circumstances and creating a bright future that holds many opportunities.

Her efforts continue to pay off.

Gremillion is the inaugural ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign National Student Award winner. ACT established this campaign to create awareness around the goal of college and career readiness for all and to recognize exemplary efforts across states in advancing this goal. Six states participated in this first year of the campaign: Alabama, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

In Alabama, the program helps to further the Alabama State Board of Education's vision for "Plan 2020: Every Child a Graduate – Every Graduate Prepared for College, Work, Adulthood in the 21st Century."

With a 3.9 GPA and ACT score of 33, Gremillion was first selected as the ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign state winner in April, chosen among four other high-achieving Alabama public high school seniors. A national committee

comprised of nine respected leaders in education and workforce development evaluated the state nominations and selected award recipients in each of the four categories: Student Readiness Award, College and Career Transition Award, Career Preparedness Award and Workplace Success Award.

Gremillion was announced as the Student Readiness Award winner at the National Gala of College and Career Readiness in Washington, D.C., on May 21, 2013. Criteria for the award include ACT score performance; growth in reaching ACT benchmarks in Grades 8-12; high school GPA; involvement in extracurricular activities, community service and work experience; and success in the face of adversity or other extraordinary circumstances.

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National Student Award Winner

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"As a nation, we have work to do in terms of college and career readiness, but we can get there," said Jon Whitmore, ACT's chief executive officer. "The individuals and organizations we honored this week prove that college and career readiness can be achieved. Our campaign is intended to encourage more people to take up the cause, to support them in their efforts and to



recognize and celebrate their accomplishments."

The six high school students nominated by their states will each receive a scholarship from ACT toward their college expenses.

As the national awardee, Gremillion will receive \$4,000, and the remaining five will each receive \$2,000.

"I didn't expect to win. I was just honored to be one of the finalists because these finalists are at the top of their class," Gremillion said. "I am so thankful for this."

Rogers High School science teacher Traci Jones nominated Gremillion for the ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign. She has tutored Gremillion two times a week for four years and said, "As I have academically challenged her over the years, she has also challenged me and made me a better teacher."

"She is a very good student and works hard to maintain excellent grades and is highly motivated," Jones wrote in her nomination letter. "I am so proud of her for scoring 33 on her ACT. This score, coupled with her grades and work ethic in my classes, speaks volumes about her academic ability."

After graduation, Gremillion plans to attend Freed-Hardeman University in Tennessee where she plans to double major in nursing and Spanish. Her goal is to become a bilingual travel nurse and work in the mission field. She wants to help those who are less fortunate, just as she has been helped.

Gremillion is already getting a head start on her college education by taking classes at the University of North Alabama through the Early Scholars program and North West Shoals Community College through the Upward Bound Program. She has earned 27 college credits so far.

In addition to being an exemplary student, Gremillion is active in her church and has attended youth conferences such as Challenge Youth Conference, Lads to Leaders and Teens Making Impacts. She is also a member of the Beta Club and Student Council, and enjoys painting, drawing, designing, reading and writing poetry in her spare time. Gremillion has won first place awards for poetry and one day aspires to write a novel. 

National Math and Science AP Program Opens Doors for Students

Rudy Davis came from a single-parent home in Alabama and worried that college might be out of reach because of his socioeconomic circumstances.

Davis was a sophomore at Minor High School in Jefferson County when the school became an A+ College Ready participant school, implementing the Advanced Placement Training and Incentive Program (APTIP). Prior to participating in the program, there were very few AP courses offered at Minor High.

Because of the expansion of offerings, Davis enrolled in three AP courses during his junior year and five AP courses during his senior year. The rigor associated with the classes contributed to a significant rise in his ACT test score, which he took again toward the end of the fall semester of his senior year. His ACT score increased to a 31 – up from the 25 he received as a sophomore – and he was ranked in the 99th percentile in math and science.

Davis, who was raised by his grandmother, was ultimately offered



over \$2 million in college scholarships and was named a Gates Millennium Scholar. He was one of two students who spoke at a Congressional briefing on Capitol Hill focused on how to improve science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education.

When asked how the APTIP program helped prepare him for college, Davis said: "This program showed me that I had what it takes to get into college and do well."

Davis is currently a sophomore at Auburn University majoring in Biomedical Sciences. National Math and Science Initiative President and CEO Sara Martinez Tucker hopes more students, especially minorities and young women, follow his lead.

"Our collective goal should be to reach them by taking these and other programs like them to the next level of expansion, to inspire more students, train more teachers, and transform more schools."

Sources: Education Week and A+ College Ready, a division of A+ Education Partnership

Two Alabama Seniors Receive Scholarships

Two Alabama public high school seniors are the recipients of the *Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference Buster Bynum Scholarship* and the *2013 Alabama School Transportation Association Conference Joseph F. Beams Sr./Jr. Education Scholarship*. The students will be able to apply the awards toward college costs for the 2013-2014 school year.

Markeshia "Keshia" Shanice Bailey of Maplesville High School, Chilton County School System, will receive the Buster Bynum Scholarship, while **Jimmy Lee Haddox** of Dadeville High School, Tallapoosa County School System, is being awarded the Joseph F. Beams, Sr./Jr. Education Scholarship.

The Buster Bynum Scholarship is a one-time \$2,500 education scholarship awarded to a deserving public school high school student in each of the 14 member southeastern states of the Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC). The scholarship is named for the current treasurer, past president and long-time member of the SESPTC Board of Directors, who has been a strong advocate for improving student transportation safety for more than 43 years.

Scholarship sponsors are the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) Pupil Transportation Section and the SESPTC.

Created in 2005, Buster Bynum Scholarships are awarded to children of school bus transportation employees actively employed in public school transportation for the past five years and where the total family income is less than \$75,000.00. Eligible students must have a cumulative 3.0 GPA and are selected based on their leadership, citizenship and service.

Maplesville High School student Keisha Bailey is the daughter of Eric T. Bailey of Lawley, who has driven a school bus for Chilton County Schools since 2007. Bailey plans to study nursing at Wallace Community College in Selma.

Maplesville High Math Literacy and Cheerleader Coach Darlene Reed said Bailey "rises above the everyday drama."

"She possesses a combination of self-confidence and compassion that drives her to befriend all – regardless of race, age or economic status," Reed said in her nomination letter.

Bailey has served in numerous leadership roles at Maplesville High, including the BETA Club, Student Government Association, Yearbook Committee, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Prom Committee. She has also volunteered in many community and church activities.

The Joseph F. Beams Sr./Jr. Education Scholarship is a one-time \$1,000 education scholarship award made to a deserving Alabama public high school student and the postsecondary school selected by the awarded student.

The scholarship is named for long-time employees of the Alabama State Department of Education and Morgan County School District. Beams Sr. (deceased) and Jr. (retired) have been strong advocates for improving student transportation safety for more than 90 years collectively. Beams Sr. began his career with the Morgan County School System and was hired by

the ALSDE as one of a newly created group of men who began inspecting Alabama's school buses. Beams Jr. served in his father's position with Morgan County Schools until hired as a school bus driver instructor for the ALSDE.

The Joseph F. Beams Sr./Jr. Education Scholarship is awarded to a student of a school bus transportation mechanic actively employed in public school transportation for the past three years. Eligible students must have a 3.0 GPA and are selected based on their leadership,

citizenship, and service.

Jimmy Lee Haddox of Dadeville High School is the son of Jimmy W. Haddox, a certified school bus mechanic who has worked for the Tallapoosa County School System since 1997. He plans to pursue degrees in engineering at Troy University and Auburn University.

Dadeville High English teacher Maribeth Farr said she has watched Haddox develop into a mature individual ready for postsecondary education.

"He is very organized, is always punctual and has great communication skills," Farr said of Haddox in her nomination letter.

Haddox is a member of the Dadeville High School Bass Fishing Team, BETA Club, Key Club and 4-H Club. He is also a volunteer firefighter with the Dadeville and Paces Point Fire Departments.

For more scholarship information, contact Brad Holley, ALSDE Program Administrator in Pupil Transportation, at 334-242-9730 or bholley@alsde.edu. 



Alabama Students Earn Recognition at International DECA Conference



Students from Across the U.S. Compete for Awards and Scholarships

Many students are now interested in becoming top marketing professionals and entrepreneurs. Several of America's leading retailers, such as Walmart and Target, are projected to spend well over \$34 million annually to market their merchandise to consumers. These are only two examples of the resources that many companies worldwide are using to "brand" their organizations – to keep them relevant, successful and competitive.

Nearly 164 Alabama students and teachers traveled to Anaheim, California, to attend the 67th annual DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC), which was held April 24-27. This event was filled with fun activities, competitive events and advanced leadership workshops for students. DECA prepares high school students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. It also focuses on enhancing the college preparation skills of students.

This year's national ICDC opening session featured PostNet CEO and *Undercover Boss* guest star Steve Greenbaum. In addition to career-based competitions, students also networked with professionals from more than 60 internationally recognized businesses.

During the school year DECA student members take part in

competitive event programs, that allow them to earn local and state awards. These competitions simulate real-life business scenarios and test the students' academic understanding and overall skills. Alabama students really put their talents to the test this year during the national competitions in California. Approximately 16,000 students participated in these contests and nearly \$500,000 in scholarships were earned.

To learn more about Alabama's DECA organization, contact State Advisor, Rochelle Seals, at (334) 242-9109 or visit the national DECA Web site, www.DECA.org. 



Name of Student - Advisor	Competition/Event	National Place/Honor
Justin Patel School Advisor - Tim Klages Eufaula High School	Stock Market Game	3 rd Place Award
Katherine Davis Advisor - David Killingsworth Auburn High School	Restaurant and Food Service Management	Contest Finalist
Abigail Poole Advisor - Neina Middleton Haleyville Center of Technology	Food Marketing Series	Contest Finalist
Keanu Brackin and Sherteria Kitchens Advisor - David Killingsworth Auburn High School	Travel and Tourism Team Decision Event	Contest Finalist
Connie Davis - Advisor Demopolis High School	Leadership	Largest Alabama Chapter Membership
Jill Westerlund - Advisor Hoover High School	Leadership	Largest Percentage Increase in Membership



The Boat House Buddies Incorporates Basic Life Lessons

Much like the characters in their children's book series, the co-authors of *The Boat House Buddies Deal With the Big Spill* come from different backgrounds and have varied interests. But what they do have in common is their love of the Gulf Coast region and a strong desire to support local nonprofits that help the environment and those affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Karen Thompson, Ilene Baskette, Melanie Houseknecht and Elva Simpson, two of whom are former educators, live in Baldwin County and met one another while working in sales at Bass Pro Shops in Spanish Fort. In the aftermath of the 2010 oil spill, they wondered what they could do to help and realized that despite all of the information filtered through various channels, little of it had been geared toward giving children a better understanding of the environmental and economic impact of the spill.

That led to the creation of "The Boat House Buddies," a diverse group of children and their animal pals who live on the Gulf Coast, learn the facts of the spill and figure out how to help. Sandcastle Sally, Jet Ski Jimmy, Angler Andy, Bayou Bonnie and the other buddies are vividly depicted on the pages through illustrations drawn by New York-based artist Cindy Allen.

There are 10 books in the series and each incorporates basic life lessons on coping and problem solving that are suitable for all children. Titles include, *Coming Together*, *Facing the Facts* and *Reducing the Problem* — each concluding with advice from one of the main characters.

For instance, *Facing the Facts* ends with Sally Sandcastle summarizing: "Anything that is special to us is worth working for. Think about what you can do to help with the Gulf oil crisis or any other problem you might have. Remember the Boat House Buddies always count on each other to help."

The books are also interactive, with a space provided at the end of each book for children to draw pictures or solve puzzles related to the story.

Each book is \$7.99, and a portion of the proceeds goes to organizations such as Mobile Baykeeper, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, Baldwin County Alliance for Arts Education and the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo, among others.

The books are available for purchase at several gift shops in the Gulf Coast area and may also be ordered by emailing b.buddies2010@yahoo.com.

"The Boat House Buddies" series has been used by the Alabama Department of Mental Health's Project Rebound as part of its community curriculum, and the Junior League of Tuscaloosa ordered copies to help children affected by the April 2011 tornadoes deal with the stress and uncertainties of life after the storms.

To learn more about the books, visit www.boathousebuddies.com.

Source: *al.com*



Athens Teacher Selected as Distinguished Educator



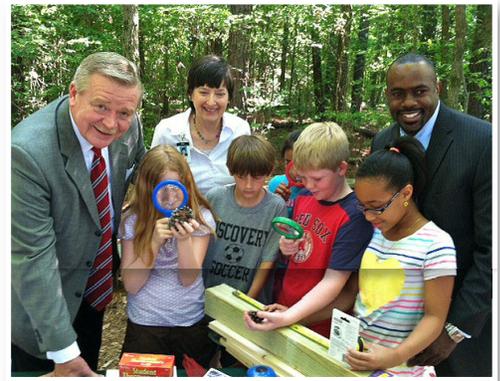
Jennifer Kennedy, Gifted Specialist at Athens Middle School in Athens, was recently named as a recipient of the 2013 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship program. She will spend the 2013-2014 school year at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC, developing curriculum and doing educational outreach for the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate. She was one of 27 STEM educators nation-wide chosen to participate in this program and is the only educator from Alabama chosen for the coming school year. 

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Madison's Horizon Elementary has a "green" reason to celebrate



The school is the first in the Madison City school district and one of only a half-dozen countywide to secure Alabama Outdoor Classroom Certification.

With a nature trail cutting through Horizon's woods on campus, outdoor gardens used for teaching and teachers trained in nature-friendly lesson planning, the designation is the culmination of eight years of trying to meet the stringent standards of the Alabama Wildlife Federation as a Certified Alabama Outdoor Classroom.

Certification clears the way for AWF organizational help, teacher resources, field books for kids to use in identifying plants and wildlife, grant sources and other assistance.

Madison City Schools Superintendent Dr. Dee Fowler said the outdoor classroom will help students who don't get to learn much about nature to better understand the environment and the importance of taking care of it. "I'm excited for the opportunity to expand classes beyond the walls of the school to see nature first hand," he said at a dedication ceremony Wednesday.

Horizon Principal Rodney Richardson said community gardens are presently in the works, and a local Boy Scouts troop plans to improve access to a nearby stream for students to study aquatic life. Volunteers will maintain the gardens over the summer. Madison Mayor Troy Trulock joined Fowler, Richardson, Horizon outdoor classroom coordinator Elizabeth Bero and officials with the Alabama Wildlife Federation for the formal kickoff.

Students led tours through the woods, pointing out features they had learned. Light refreshments were served near wooden benches along the school nature path. For more information on the Alabama Outdoor Classroom Certification program, visit: <http://www.alabamawildlife.org/classrooms/>. 

Madison City Schools Seniors on the 2013 White House Commission on Presidential Scholars List



Madison City Schools has the extremely rare distinction of having not one, but two seniors make the 2013 White House Commission on Presidential Scholars list.

David M. Hergenroeder and **Martin Wang**, graduating seniors from Bob Jones High School (BJHS), are among the 141 students who earned the prestigious award out of 3,300 qualified applicants from 3.2 million graduating seniors nationwide.

"To have two students from the same school district is unbelievable. To have two from the same school is unprecedented," said Dr. Dee Fowler, superintendent of Madison City Schools, in congratulating them for their hard work.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, created in 1969, has honored more than 6,000 of the nation's top-performing students. The program was expanded in 1979 to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, literary and performing arts. The 49th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars will be recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C., on June 16, 2013, during National Recognition Week. They will receive the Presidential Scholar Medallion and have a chance to meet President Barack Obama.

Sheila Roberts, College and Career Readiness advisor at Bob Jones, said the application process is rigorous. Students must write numerous essays in addition to earning top grades on the ACT or SAT, have stellar school evaluations and transcripts, along with demonstrated involvement in community service and leadership.

Only two students from each state, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia are selected by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars each year along with 15 at-large and a handful of other winners in the visual and performing arts. Nine Alabamians, including five from BJHS, qualified as semifinalists out of 550 nationwide before the list was narrowed to 141 finalists nationwide. The last time Madison City Schools had a presidential scholar was in 2001. *Source: Madison City Schools*

Vestavia Hills Sunday School Class Supports Literacy

When Gwen McCorquodale told members of the Vestavia Hills Baptist Joyful Noise Sunday School class about the lack of children's literature books in the Perry County School District, she had no idea that the discussion would inspire a renowned concert pianist to take action.

The class had already donated \$500 to support literacy learning in Perry County, but one of the people at the meeting, Michael Dulin, a finalist in the Carnegie Hall International Piano Competition, approached McCorquodale about putting on a concert to raise additional money to purchase books. The "Arts on the Mountain" performance, like most others in the church's concert series, would be free but guests would be asked to make a minimum donation.

And donate they did. Final proceeds from the concert tallied well over \$6,000, and an additional \$1,000 has been collected in the weeks following the show. The money will be used to buy books for Perry County Schools' libraries and classrooms, and for students to take home.

"An abundance of good things came out of planting that one seed," said McCorquodale, head of the Department of Education at Judson College in Marion.

Judson College teacher candidates who complete field work experiences at Albert Turner Elementary and Frances Marion High Schools will also benefit from the outreach efforts, McCorquodale added.

"During college classroom instruction our faculty model and work with teacher candidates on how to select the best books for use in school classrooms, how to plan and implement meaningful lessons with the selected books and how to supplement lesson planning with additional resource materials," she said. "Planning is followed by our teacher candidates going into classrooms and using the books and materials. Our teacher candidates grow with unique experiences through projects like this one."

McCorquodale said roughly 400 people came to the concert. Several of those attendees, including Perry County Superintendent John Heard and Albert Turner Elementary School Principal Marshae Pelt, praised Dulin's skills and thanked him for his generosity during a reception held in his honor at the McCorquodale family's home.

"Mr. Dulin's recital was an extraordinarily beautiful experience for which we are ever grateful," said Judson President Dr. David Potts.

"Judson College is exceedingly grateful for him, the McCorquodales, the Joyful Noise Sunday School class and Vestavia Hills Baptist Church for caring

and giving to promote reading among the children of Perry County."

Dulin, a native of Brookside, attended the Alabama School of Fine Arts, Birmingham Southern College and The Julliard School in New York. He is the recipient of the Silver Medal from the Second Annual International Audio-Video Competition in New York. In addition to performing his original music throughout the U.S., he appears both as a featured soloist and plays with the orchestra in performances of classical music. He has also toured as keyboardist with the legendary Motown group The Temptations.

"One of my earliest memories is of the pleasure that reading brought to my life," Dulin said. "Books inspired my imagination, comforted me in uncertain times and helped me to understand the complexities of people and places far from my own experiences. I was honored to be a small part of this effort to aid Judson College in its efforts to share the magic of literacy with the students of Perry County."

The Judson education department has sponsored a number of events in the past several years to benefit local public schools, including a history conference for fourth graders and a technology conference for teachers. The benefit concert was simply one more way to lend a hand, McCorquodale said.

"The event was a tremendous success as shown not only by the attendance of people from the community, church, Perry County schools, and the college, but also by the funds received," McCorquodale said. "I think this is what educational theorists envision when they write about home, school and community coming together to benefit children."

Source: Judson College



Planning Professional Learning Opportunities for Summer and Fall?

Submit Local Professional Studies for ACLD Approval

The Alabama Council for Leadership Development (ACLD) reviews school systems' professional study submissions throughout the year. Proposals deemed acceptable are approved as PLU credit for professional staff who hold valid Alabama instructional leader certificates. Those holding such certificates may include, but are not limited to, selected central office staff, principals, assistant principals, career technical education directors, teachers and other educators.

Although superintendents may grant locally approved PLUs, school systems may wish to seek ACLD approval for locally developed professional studies. By seeking ACLD approval, an instructional leader has the opportunity to earn an ACLD PLU in his/her respective school system. Therefore, as directed by the local superintendent, professional development coordinators, curriculum specialists, or other designated personnel are encouraged to submit the professional study on behalf of the school system via the ACLD's online Instructional Leadership Professional Study Application (ILPSA) system at least two months prior to the date of *initial* implementation.

Many school systems have successfully completed and submitted the professional study application. The school systems with ACLD approved professional studies in 2012 - 2013 include, but are not limited to:

- Birmingham City Schools
- Homewood City Schools
- Huntsville City Schools
- Jackson County Schools
- Lauderdale County Schools
- Lawrence County Schools
- Lee County Schools
- Mobile County Schools
- Montgomery County Schools
- Morgan County Schools
- Opelika City Schools
- Pell City Schools
- Shelby County Schools
- Trussville City Schools
- Tuscaloosa City Schools
- Tuscaloosa County Schools

To request access to the professional study application, complete the [Contact ACLD form](#). The submission deadline for the upcoming meeting is **June 5, 2013**.

If your school system would like more information or technical assistance, contact Telena Madison, State Department of Education, Office of Teaching and Leading, at 334-353-5230 or tmadison@alsde.edu. 



Application Requirements to Consider

- Identify the standard(s) addressed by the professional study.
- Do the professional study activities, in summary:
 - Address all key indicators for knowledge?
 - Address applicable key indicators for ability?
 - Align to all professional development standards?
- Identify the targeted participant(s) for the professional study.
- Identify any methods to reflect professional study content delivered over time.
- Is more than one delivery method identified to support professional study delivered over time?
- Does the provider describe all requirements related to pre-and/or post-activities for successful completion of this professional study? *Note: This is not the professional study method of evaluation.*
- Does the provider identify and describe the methods of evaluation for the professional study?
 - Describe how participants will effectively acquire knowledge and demonstrate their ability to use that knowledge to positively impact student achievement. *If specific evaluation tools are used, include the formal name of the instrument.*
 - How will participants demonstrate what they know and what they can do with what they know?
- How will their growth be evaluated? This may include, but not be limited to: Data analysis, personal reflections, demonstrates a change of instructional practice(s), survey(s), evidence of successful implementation, etc.
- Who is responsible for the evaluation in the school system or educational agency?

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EDUCATE/LEADAlabama 2013 Training



Suggested Audience

Local Education Agency (LEA)

- Superintendents and Instructional Central Office Staff
- Evaluation, Technology, and Professional Development Coordinators
- Principals, Assistant Principals, Career Technical Education Coordinators
- Teachers and all other Educators
- Representatives of Professional Associations, Agencies, Institutions, Organizations
- Interested individuals

Objectives

ALSDE presenters will:

1) Focus on why quality EDUCATEAlabama (EA) and LEADAlabama (LEAD) implementation is important to individual professional learning as related to the ALSDE Plan 2020 and College- and Career-Ready Standards (CCRS) implementation and 2) Provide updated training materials and improvements for both online processes.

LEA presenters will:

Focus on their system's professional learning vision, Continuous Improvement Plans (CIPs), ALSDE Plan 2020, and CCRS implementation, using EA and LEAD to 1) Self-assess; 2) Dialogue; 3) Implement quality professional learning plans; and 4) Use supporting evidence to demonstrate professional learning that impacts student achievement.

2013 Dates/Locations

July 17 – MEGA Conference, Mobile

July 25 – Columbia High School, Huntsville

July 30 – Carver Senior High School, Montgomery

July 31 – ALSDE, Gordon Persons Building, Montgomery

All Sessions EXCEPT MEGA CONFERENCE

(See PD TITLE Session Details for MEGA Session)

Sign-in: 8:30 a.m.

Session: 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Registration and Training Details

Access STI PD at <https://pdweb.alsde.edu/pdweb/>

Select PD TITLE Number: EALEAD2013

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